



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT

To: Interested Parties

From: FWP Wolf Program Coordinator, Carolyn Sime (406-461-0587)

Subject: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information, October 31 - November 6, 2009

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf – livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available on each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2008 annual report) can be found at: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/wolf/default.html>.

Wolf Monitoring Activities

Laudon has been trapping in Glacier National Park, weather depending, and also assisting with hunter check stations. Others with the wolf program have also been assisting with big game check stations and helping with the inspection / registration process and data collection from harvested wolves.

Hunters, other recreationists, and landowners can help FWP monitor the population by reporting wolf observations, tracks, or sign through the FWP online reporting button [Contact Us - Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks](#), by contacting the closest wolf specialist or FWP office, or mailing a wolf observation card.

Flights: None this week.

Wolf - Livestock Activities

On 10/30, WS removed a wolf from the Selow pack after depredations there. One more wolf was authorized to be removed.

On 11/2, WS confirmed that wolves injured a guard dog on private land West of Seiben. The Mitchell Mtn pack is suspected to be involved. WS has been authorized to lethally remove three wolves.

On 11/3, WS confirmed that a wolf or wolves killed a calf in the Big Hole near Jackson. This is near the area as the previously confirmed incident on Oct. 26. WS will continue the management action of lethally removing 5 wolves from the Miner Lakes pack.

On 11/4 WS removed a gray male pup from the Black Mountain pack. The producer with the SOS permit was notified that the permit was now good for one wolf. Control is ongoing.

WS pulled traps in the Lydia pack territory at the end of the authorized 45 days, with one wolf remaining in the total authorized to be taken. No further livestock losses have occurred in the last 45 days and thus lethal control efforts conclude.

Outreach and Education

Ross gave a presentation to a group of students from the Washington State University Wildlife Club and students in agricultural classes. A total of 215 students attended.

On 11/4, Sime gave presentations to two advanced biology classes at Capitol High School. About 45 students attended.

On 11/4, Sime and Lance gave a presentation at the monthly meeting of the Helena Hunters and Anglers Association. About 20 people attended.

On 11/6, Sime gave a presentation at a research symposium sponsored by the Montana Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology. About 60 people attended.

Research Activities

Nothing to report at this time.

Law Enforcement and Related Activities

Nothing to report at this time.

Other Updates

Northern Rockies Delisting Litigation

On 6/2, a coalition of 13 groups challenged the USFWS delisting decision in Federal District Court in Missoula (9th Circuit). On 8/20, a preliminary injunction request was filed, requesting that wolves be placed back on the Endangered Species list while the court decides the main case within the next year – thus preventing a fall hunting season in Montana and Idaho. On 9/8, the injunction request was denied, but the main lawsuit is moving forward. Written briefings by all parties will be completed by late January 2010. A hearing date for oral arguments has not been set, but is expected to be not long after completion of written briefings.

Montana state laws, administrative rules, and the federally-approved management plan remain in effect and wolves are classified and protected under Montana law as a species in need of management. The FWP Commission has the authority to issue rules and regulations regarding the protection and periodic taking of the animal (as through hunting seasons for example). FWP is the lead agency for wolves, assisted by USDA Wildlife Services if wolves are confirmed to have injured or killed livestock.

Montana 2009 Wolf Hunting Season:

From 9/15 to 10/24, a total of 12 wolves were harvested during the early backcountry wilderness area season (3 in WMU 1 and 9 in WMU 3). These backcountry wilderness areas are smaller geographical areas within the larger Wolf Management Units. Wolves harvested during the early wilderness seasons count toward the total quota for the entire WMU.

On 10/25, the opening day of the general fall season, a total of 10 wolves were harvested. Through 1:30pm on Friday 11/06, a total of 51 wolves had been harvested. The statewide total quota is 75.

Hunters are required to report their harvest within 12 hours and to personally present a skull / pelt or the whole carcass to an FWP representative within 10 days. Compliance with the hunting regulations has been good.

Hunters are also required to determine whether the season is still open in a particular WMU of interest prior to going hunting. For the most current harvest status information, call 1-800-385-7826, 7 days a week. The recording is updated by 1:30pm each day. The FWP website is updated Monday – Friday by 1:30pm, but not on the weekends, so call the phone hot line.

The following table summarizes the harvest information through 1:30 am on November 6. Harvest has been geographically distributed within each WMU and roughly distributed equally between male and female.

As of 1:30pm 11-6-09	WMU 1 quota: 41 (subquota of 2, N. Fork Flathead)	WMU 2 quota: 22	WMU 3 quota: 12	STATEWIDE quota: 75
Early Backcountry Season (9-15 to 10-24)	3 wolves	CLOSED	9 wolves; permanently closed on October 9	12
General Fall Season (10-25 to 11-6)	22 (1 wolf in the N. Fork subunit)	13	4	39
Total Season to Date (through 1:30am, Friday 11-6-09)	25 (the quota is 61% filled)	13 (the quota is 59% filled)	13; CLOSED on 10-26-09	51 (the quota is 68% filled)

Montana Livestock Loss Reduction & Mitigation Board:

The Board met on October 23. The agenda and minutes from previous meetings are available at [Montana Department of Livestock](http://montana.gov/livestock). The program coordinator can be reached at 444-5609.

=====

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP at: www.fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/wolf.

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office: 657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp>. Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 444-5609.